

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please delete the ABSTRACT and replace it with the following:

A hollow microparticle with a hollow portion and a high-density polymer brush layer enclosing the hollow portion. The polymer brush layer is a block copolymer of at least one crosslinkable monomer and one a non-crosslinkable monomer. Blocks of the crosslinkable monomer are located innermost of the polymer brush layer. The crosslinkable monomer blocks are in a discrete polymer chain crosslinked via a linkage formed by reaction between the crosslinkable monomer functional groups or via a linkage formed by reaction between the crosslinkable monomer functional groups and a polyfunctional compound.